

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent
www.AstoriaChurch.org

REFLECTION

“Can you hear the sighing in the wind? Can you feel the heavy silence in the mountains? Can you sense the restless longing in the sea? Can you see it in the woeful eyes of an animal? Something’s coming ... something better.” – Joni Eareckson Tada

“Human beings are hope-shaped creatures. The way you live now is completely controlled by what you believe about your future.” – Timothy J. Keller

ADVENT MEDITATION II Peter 3:8-13

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

*All: For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait. (2x)
Truly our hope is in you; truly our hope is in you.*

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 25:5

Leader: Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONG OF PRAISE

“Come, thou long expected Jesus” (see insert)

CALL TO CONFESSION Psalm 25:6-7

Be mindful of your mercy. O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness’ sake, O LORD!

SILENT CONFESSION

ADVENT SONG

“Wait for the Lord”

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near,
Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

Taizé Community

ASSURANCE OF PARDON John 3:17

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

SONG OF PRAISE

“He who is mighty”

Oh, the mercy our God has shown
To those who sit in death’s shadow.
The sun on high pierced the night;
Born was the Cornerstone.
*Unto us a Son is given,
Unto us a Child is born.
He who is mighty has done a great thing;
Taken on flesh, conquered death’s sting,
Shattered the darkness and lifted our shame.
Holy is his name.*

Oh, the freedom our Savior won;
The yoke of sin has been broken.
Once a slave, now by grace
No more condemnation. Rebecca Elliott and Kate DeGraide

GOSPEL READING Luke 21:25-36

“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Be careful, or your hearts

will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING I Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE

"I want to walk as a child of the light"

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The light of my life is Jesus.

*In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus.

Kathleen Thomerson

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 33:6-9, 14-16 *NIV*

⁶“Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security. ⁷I will bring Judah and Israel back from captivity and will rebuild them as they were before. ⁸I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against me and will forgive all their sins of rebellion against me. ⁹Then this city will bring me renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for it; and they will be in awe and will tremble at the abundant prosperity and peace I provide for it.’ ...

¹⁴“‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

¹⁵“‘In those days and at that time

I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line;

he will do what is just and right in the land.

¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved
and Jerusalem will live in safety.

This is the name by which it will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.’

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE “The Branch” J. David Ellis

MUSIC OF RESPONSE

“Come light our hearts”

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.

Truly our hope is in you; truly our hope is in you.

O Lord of life, our only hope,
Your radiance shines on all who look
To you in the dark,
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts.

O Joy above all other loves,
In you we find more than enough,
We come as we are, O heal and restore,
Come light our hearts.

Sandra McCracken

THE LORD'S TABLE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is always right and proper, and our moral duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the inhabitants of heaven, we honor and adore your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

People: **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts!
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Glory be to you, O Lord, most high. Amen**

The Gloria Patri (#735)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Leader: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come eat and drink with thanksgiving.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

“O come, O come, Emmanuel” (see insert)

BENEDICTION I Thessalonians 5:23-24

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VISITORS: We are so glad that you joined us for worship. If you are a visitor to ACC, please email admin@astoriachurch.org to be added to our email list. Or fill out a communication card at the Welcome Table (hard copy or QR code). We send out a weekly electronic newsletter and other announcement emails.

CHOIRS: The children's and adult choirs will be rehearsing today. Questions? Speak to Linnea Kickasola or email her at llkickasola@yahoo.com.

LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE: Our Lessons and Carols service will be **Sunday, December 19th at 7PM**. Please mark your calendars and join us for this special Christmas service.

A FEW TUTORS STILL NEEDED: Hillside Center for Education is still needing 2-3 more tutors. Each tutor has the opportunity to invest in the life of a student, building confidence by helping them with homework, academic skills, and affirming their gifts. Tutors will meet virtually with students one or two times each week for an hour and fifteen minutes each session. Tutoring sessions are M – Th from 5:00 – 6:15 PM. This is a valuable experience and the Frederes would love for you to be a part of it! Sign up link is in the Tuesday newsletter. Questions? Email Carin at cfrederes@gmail.com

MEN'S BREAKFAST GATHERING: Sat. Dec 4, 9:00am. Join us at the Belaire Diner (Broadway & 21st St) for a gathering with other men from ACC. We will each pay for our own meal. See the Tuesday newsletter to sign up!

ADVENT OFFERING: We have started to receive the Advent Offering for one of our Missionaries, Macklann and Rose Basse, who live in Togo, West Africa. **We have raised \$3,286.70 so far. Thanks for your generosity!** This year we will be raising \$3,500 for school needs (\$2,000 tuition for 20 students, \$700 for teacher materials and student books, and \$800 for a small swing and slide for the playground). Any funds raised above the \$3,500 will go towards their capital campaign to buy land for the school in a village about 60 km away. See the Tuesday newsletter for the Basse's latest newsletter. **The deadline for giving is Sunday, December 5th.** Questions? Contact Annette Scattoni at gianlu19@yahoo.com.

SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN CHRISTMAS PARTY: If you would like to volunteer to help with SFFC's annual Christmas Party, it will take place on **Saturday, December 11th, 12 pm-3 pm** at Central Presbyterian Church, 593 Park Ave., New York, NY 10065 (b/w E 64th/E65th Sts). They need help with setup, breakdown and picking up gifts to deliver to families that can't make the party. See link in the Tuesday newsletter to sign up to help or donate a gift! Questions? Contact Heidi Kaufmann at hjkaufmann@gmail.com.

CHURCH FINANCES: Thank you for your generous giving on Sundays in the offering basket, online and through sending in checks to our PO Box. Please continue to give as the Lord leads you.

MEMBER AND REGULAR ATTENDER NEWS: Email admin@astoriachurch.org with your news!

WELCOME TO ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Our mission is to glorify God by learning of God, living in Christ, and loving God and our neighbors.

WORSHIP: Sundays, 10:30AM (Mixed Style)
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2102, Astoria, NY 11102
OFFICE: 22-07 Astoria Blvd., Cellar Entrance, Astoria, NY 11102
PHONE: 718-721-3440
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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Annette Scattoni
(ACCKids@astoriachurch.org)
YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: JC Cha
(youth@astoriachurch.org)



[Facebook.com/AstoriaCommunityChurch](https://www.facebook.com/AstoriaCommunityChurch)

Helpful Information:

Children and Youth Ministries

Currently we are only offering nursery services on Sundays. We provide a children's/youth bulletin for Pre-K and up. Our Youth Group meets on Fridays Sept - June. See below for more info.

Babies - Toddlers: Nursery is provided for newborns – 4-year olds. New Parents must register in advance. Link is in the newsletter (ackkids@astoriachurch.org)

Pre-K - Grade 2: We hope to relaunch soon. Annette Scattoni, ackkids@astoriachurch.org

Grades 3 - 5: We hope to relaunch soon. Annette Scattoni, ackkids@astoriachurch.org

Youth Group - Grades 6 - 12: JC Cha, youth@astoriachurch.org, on Fridays (Sept – June)

Community Groups

Small groups that meet on Zoom and in person for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. Email admin@astoriachurch.org for info.

Physical, Financial, or Emotional Need

Church leaders are available to meet with you if you have a need. Please email Diaconate@astoriachurch.org or call 718-721-3440. For the **Meals Ministry**, email acmeals@gmail.com.

English as a Second Language Classes

(Saturdays) Info: QueensESL@gmail.com

Outreach Ministries

For info on service opportunities in Queens: Diaconate@astoriachurch.org.

Men's and Women's Ministry

Info for women, contact: admin@astoriachurch.org **We are currently praying for new leadership.**

Info for men, contact: mensministry@astoriachurch.org